

**STATE COUNCIL FOR THE INTERSTATE COMPACT ON EDUCATION FOR
CHILDREN OF MILITARY FAMILIES**

March 5, 2018,

Townsend Building, Department of Education Cabinet Room, Dover, DE

Attendees:

Sonya Dyer
Kevin Fitzgerald
Susan Haberstroh
Christine Kubik
Lt. Col. John Preston
Ron Sarg
David Sokola

Unable to Attend:

Doug Crouse
Patrick “Mickey” Devlin
Terri Hodges
Earl Jaques
Michael Noel

Introductions and Welcome: The State Council for the Interstate Compact on Education for Children of Military Families (MIC) was called to order at 1:05 p.m. on Monday, March 5, 2018 at the Townsend Building in Dover by State Commissioner for MIC Susan Haberstroh. Susan explained that the group is required to meet once a year. Everyone was welcomed to the meeting and introductions made.

Approval of Minutes: The Committee reviewed meeting minutes from March 9, 2017. Ron Sarg noted a typo in his last name and requested the “e” be removed and corrected as “Sarg.” With no further changes, all were in favor of the minutes as edited and motions carried for approval.

Review and Purpose of Council: Susan Haberstroh noted the purpose of the Compact is to assist children of military families by eliminating barriers as they move from state-to- state due to deployments. Common barriers are delays in school enrollment, obtaining school records, graduation requirements, requirements issues with immunizations, vacation time, absences, etc. She also noted that Delaware was one of the first of 11 states to sign on to the Compact in 2008 and has been very involved from the beginning when regulations were being drafted.

Updates from the Annual National MIC Meeting

Susan referred members to the Military Interstate Compact (MIC) Annual Report noting last page has a picture of the governor with Delaware students.

Discussion of Military Identifier

Susan reported Delaware passed a law in 2015 that required public schools to identify and record the number of military-connected youth. She referenced handout 14 Del. Code §932 Military-Connected Youth which was developed by the DOE, as well as a data collection document. Last year, 2016—2017, was the first year data was collected and recorded 3,000 military-connected students; the data collection for this year is higher at 3,600 which may be due to parents being more aware and comfortable with self-reporting.

As an overview from last year, federal law reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Act of 1965, Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), requires states to identify sub-groups of students: foster, homeless, and military-connected students. It should be noted that the federal definition for reporting is narrower than Delaware’s definition, resulting in Title X subgroup data to appear smaller overall.

Data identifying 37 public schools on the FY18 Summary of Military Connected Youth list indicates that Caesar Rodney has the highest enrollment of students (1,332) and with limited resources it's important to target appropriately. However, it must be noted that military-connected students are in all Delaware schools. The Military-connected youth handout provides good information regarding purpose, definitions, an identifier form, etc. The DOE/Compact will work with schools to better reach out to parents through additional handouts, PTAs, and the April 28th State convention.

Updates from Partners

Christine Kubik distributed a Delaware Army National Guard handout which illustrates soldier strength of 1,601 located at 12 statewide facilities, budget, state and federal missions 2014-2018. Federal deployments for 2017-2018 consist of a 90 to 120 day-tour of 500 troops; at this time, the exact number of children affected with parent/s deployments is not available. For security reasons, deployment information is limited to schools/teachers or shared by the parent. The group feels more work is needed to encourage parents to notify their children's school about deployments cause behavioral changes, stress, affect performance in class, etc. Informing parents of various school supports is important for the military-connected student. Christine will create a letter to provide counselors, teachers, administrators with general information about deployments, concerns, and resources available to families.

A military child education training coalition event will be held on March 21st at the Hilton Garden Inn. It will provide a lot of information for children of military veterans.

A question was raised about FERPA and how information is shared. The group discussed how student lists or information is not publicized although supports are provided through a counselor or staff with the need to know and only through the approval of a parent. Major concern is for high school students who may have a need to reach out to someone during a parent's absence from home. Aside from trusted counselors or teachers, a coach may be an important and first point of contact for many high school students.

Observance of Recognition of the Military Child in the State of Delaware

Susan provided a handout regarding Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 16 as April the Month of the Military Child in the State of Delaware. This year the observance will be held at Legislative Hall on Tuesday, March 27th or preferred date on Tuesday, April 17th at 2 p.m. Air base students will be encouraged to attend as well as students from the local area.

Other Discussion as needed

Susan announced a national meeting in the fall and encouraged Delaware representatives to attend the Cleveland event. An email will be sent with date and details.

An issue was discussed regarding State accountability structure of taking the SAT on the official/ designated date to avoid getting a zero. The DOE was asked to review the policy for possible changes to better accommodate military students: The Compact needs to consider an exemption process to remove barriers for college-bound kids. Absenteeism policy during deployments is another item to address.

Approved at the March 14th, 2019 meeting with a motion made by Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald and seconded by Dr. Ronald Sarg to accept the meeting minutes by adding Jennifer Davis as an attendee and correcting Lt. Colonel John Preston's name to Lt. Colonel Marshall Preston. Motion carried.